Floodplains

Floodplains are lowlands that are relatively flat and subject to flooding. The 100-year floodplain is the area adjacent to a stream, river or lake that is subjected to inundation by water with a probability of at least 1% in any given year. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) floodway is the channel of a river and adjacent land that must be unobstructed to provide for the discharge of the base-year (usually 100-year) flood, while only allowing for a certain rise in flood level (usually 1 foot).

The map material delineates the 100-year floodplain. The intended level of detail is that suitable for a corridor-level environmental review.

DEIS Maps

FEMA flood insurance maps were used to identify 100-year floodplains on the major rivers, lakes and streams for the study area. Much of this information was in a King County Geographic information system database. The data were used to plot as an overlay on maps of the project alternatives. The King County database was developed in 1995. Maps revised after 1995 were inspected to update the 100-year floodplains. Floodplains for minor streams, wetlands, and closed depressions were not mapped. Impacts to these minor floodplains were not included in the I-405 study.

The resulting map is "Locations of Floodplains" listed under DEIS Maps. The 100-year floodplains are in dark blue.

The other map in the DEIS Expertise report, "Alternative 3 Projects w/ Floodplains," contains the same information, with Alternative 3 projects (both highway and transit) overlain onto the floodplains map.

RS/GIS Maps

The map listed under RS/GIS Maps – "Locations of Floodplains" – contains the same floodplains database as the one used for the DEIS, overlain onto a standard map-template that has major roads, lakes, places, and other features. Hillshading was added using 10m U.S. Geological Survey digital elevation model (DEM) data.

The other map listed under RS/GIS Maps, "Alternative 3 Projects w/Floodplain," shows Alternative 3 projects (both highway and transit) overlain onto the RS/GIS floodplain map.